

Social Action Committee

Sanctuary Service Affirms CSZ's Commitment

Sha'ar Zahav celebrated its commitment to the cause of all oppressed people in a special Sanctuary Shabbat Service on April 10. The service, held on the Shabbat before Passover, was sponsored by CSZ's Social Action Committee to recognize and support refugees fleeing oppression and violence in Central America.

The Sanctuary service drew on Jewish experiences of persecution and sanctuary in committing ourselves to work for sanctuary for others. Nearly a dozen Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees living in the Bay Area joined us, as did members of San Francisco and East Bay sanctuary organizations.

Surely the most moving part of the service was the personal testimony by Gloria, a Salvadoran refugee. Gloria spoke about her sister, who was killed, and about the psychological torture her father experienced.

The service featured special liturgy, readings and songs in Spanish, Hebrew and English on the themes of persecution, sanctuary and freedom. Members of CRECE, a refugee organization, led us in a song which has become an anthem for the Sanctuary Movement, "Paz y Libertad"—which says simply, "peace, we want peace and liberty in this world."

In his sermon, Rabbi Kahn linked Jewish experiences in the Holocaust with those of Central American refugees. Jerry Rosenstein drew on his personal experiences in the Holocaust in a moving appeal for contributions to CSZ's special Sanctuary Bond Fund for refugees seeking political asylum in the United States.

The service culminated months of planning by the Social Action Commit-

(Continued on page 11)

10th Anniversary Celebration

Summer 1987 will offer more than the usual morning fog and afternoon sun. It ushers in the tenth anniversary of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and promises a memorable celebration for members and friends.

The event, called "Ten From the Heart, Sha'ar Zahav's Tenth Anniversary Celebration," will be held on August 8 in the Green Room of the S.F. War Memorial & Performing Arts Center on Van Ness Avenue. The site was chosen for its elegance, its political significance (the "No on 64" victory party took place there) and its spacious balcony, which overlooks City Hall.

The gala will begin at 8 pm and last until midnight. The regular cost is \$25 per person, which includes a sumptuous buffet, beverages and dancing.

For members or friends who would like an especially generous way to commemorate the tenth anniversary, \$100 sponsorships are available. Your gift entitles you to a ticket to the celebration and honorary mention in the event's program.

Formal invitations will be mailed this month; more information will be included in next month's *Forward*. If you would like more details now about the event and sponsorships, please contact Eric Keitel at 239-8180.

Don't miss this party. We're only ten once.

Children's Havurah

Picnic at Lake Anza

It's summer and time for picnics and swimming. Join with the Family/Children's Havurah on Sunday, June 14 at Lake Anza in Tilden Park from noon to 3 for fun, sun and food. We'll be meeting up on the grass and we'll have a sign, so look a little to your right after you enter and there we'll be.

Please bring your own lunches; we're not going to do this one as a potluck. (Can you believe it?)

Call Sue (534-1606) or Jill (534-2339) for more information and directions if you need them.

Planning Meeting: Parents and interested friends—we'll be having a meeting on Sunday, June 7 from 3 to 5 pm at the synagogue to plan for the coming year. Please come with your ideas, so that the havurah's activities will meet the needs of your family. In order to get some work done, we'd like not to have children at the meeting. Childcare will be available, but you must RSVP to Sue or Jill by Tuesday, June 2 if you wish to reserve a space. Please plan to attend.

Shavu'ot Into The Night

Shavu'ot, "the season of the giving of the Torah," will be observed on Tuesday night, June 2. Our Adult Education teachers—CSZ members Jonathan Schwartz, Leslie Bergson and Shana Winokur—will join Rabbi Kahn in leading the traditional "(almost) all night" study session. Each will teach a different aspect of Torah—ranging from modern short stories to music. This special program will begin at 9 pm.

The evening will begin with a dairy dinner at 6:30 pm. A special festival service will follow at 7:45. Reservations are required for dinner (approx. \$5; subventions available); if you have not reserved a place, please call the synagogue office as soon as possible. You are welcome to participate in the entire evening's festivities or any part that you like. *Chag Same'ach!*

Non, Je ne regrette rien

This is my last column as your president and the strains of Edith Piaf waft through my ears these days. I really don't regret anything, except, in a way, that it's over. For every president, the end of the term is filled with a mixture of relief as well as a sense of loss. However, many past presidents, personal friends of mine, have run screaming from the post. While that isn't true in my case, I now understand their reasons.

Let's face it—this is not an easy community to try to lead. We have internalized our anti-semitism, our homophobia, our mysogeny and whatever the equivalent is for dislike of men. Many of our members have been driving around for years with a "Question Authority" bumper sticker, figuratively, and in some cases literally. From the politics of the 60s and the women's movement, we learned to resist hierarchical systems and replace them with more democratic methods for decision making. So how does this all fit with running a 350-member synagogue with 16 committees, two professional paid staff and a budget in excess of \$150,000?

That is a question that I have been trying to answer all this year. The challenge has been to be a strong leader, to get things done, to give freedom to the committees while not abdicating responsibility for fear of upsetting somebody. I have strong opinions, and if I think something is wrong I say so. I am decisive, direct and forthright, always have been and always will be. I also enjoy being an administrator; it's something I do well. It was my goal to make this job look pleasurable and desirable so that others would want to do it. So I have just been myself, doing what I know how to do. There are a few who misunderstand, and call my decisiveness "authoritative" and "power hungry."

Power is not something one takes. It is either given to you or not. Nor is it given lightly around here, for the reasons I've already described. Despite my strengths, I am still a human being with feelings and I've received some real painful jabs to the heart. It simply comes with the territory. I can live with

all of that because I am very proud of our accomplishments this year and because I know that our synagogue is healthier than it's ever been—both in its membership and its leadership.

The legacy I would like to leave relates to those hundreds of you who are happy with how things are, who do appreciate all the work that the leaders do, who do recognize just what a fine congregation and community we have here. I ask that you provide feedback to your incoming president and other leaders. Tell him/them that they are doing a great job; tell them their article in the *Forward* was terrific; tell them their sermon was moving; that their singing touched you; tell them that the letter you received was well written. None of these activities should be taken for granted and a few kind words can go a long way.

It takes a brave soul to take on this sort of volunteer work. Our leaders are very important to us and we must learn to cherish them and what they do. Without good leaders, our organizations would flounder and we just can't afford that.

To those who have provided me with positive feedback throughout the year—to Richard, Leila, Tiela, Bill, Rob, Eric, Paul, Rabbi Kahn, Garry, Mike, Jerry, Jay, Sharyn and, of course Rosalinda (who has also been my greatest critic!), to all of you—thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your supportive words made all the difference.

In another forum I will thank all of those hard-working members who made this such a successful year for us.

My sanity is still intact; my relationship with Rosalinda is stronger than ever; my business is still making money; and my friends have forgiven me for being unavailable and a lousy correspondent all year. Most important—this has been one of the most satisfying and important years of my life.

—Irene Ogus, President



Classified Ads

NEED A CHANGE: House sitter needed for lovely home with cat; warm Noe Valley location on J-Church line; June 28–July 19; contact Don Albert, 641-5113.

FOR SALE: Dining table/4 matching chairs. Carved English oak draw-leaf table in beautiful condition with four chairs with blue velvet seat covers. \$950 for the set. Call Irene at 641-1799 or 441-0114.

NICE JEWISH GIRL, Shiksa lover, two cats and one dog moving to San Francisco July 1, need a home. Any help or information please call (408) 336-2780.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Allan Altman, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography.

•
Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-7152) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

A Bracha for San Francisco?

Estelle, Aunt Yente's niece from that funny college back east where students major in frisbee, was recently in San Francisco to visit her beloved aunt along with her other friends. On her first morning, she awoke to the sound of birds in the backyard, and felt the warm sun of the Castro on her face. She was suddenly overcome by a burning question for her aunt. She was halfway out of bed and over to the telephone, when she remembered what happened the last time she woke Aunt Yente from her beauty sleep. This left her with only one option, at least until Aunt Yente awoke: to answer it herself.

Estelle was no slouch at discussing the minutiae of Jewish law and custom. Although she was majoring in Lesbian Marxism, her minor was in Jewish Women's Studies. And besides, she had cut her teeth on Talmud back in Brooklyn, at least until she and Sophie Greenblatt were discovered in the broom closet during the Purim play in seventh grade. And so, without further ado, Estelle took out her journal, and began to write. Her question was, "Is there a special blessing that is recited by those lucky enough to live in San Francisco?" Here is Estelle's answer:

Though I'm not fond of quoting smarmy musicals, as they say in "Fiddler on the Roof," there is a blessing for everything. There is precedent for blessings of thanksgiving in the morning prayers: "Blessed are you...who has not made me a heathen, a slave, or a woman." Some of my nonsexist male friends modify this last one to "who did not make Tom Selleck a woman." (For those of us of the female persuasion, the traditional substitution is a demure "who has made me according to your will." But that is the subject of a different tirade.) To pattern a San Francisco blessing after these prayers would yield something along the lines of, "Blessed are you who has spared me from Hoboken."

The problem with this approach is that it is a negative blessing. Negative blessings seem to imply that being Jewish or male or a San Franciscan is not just fortunate, due to the privileges it confers, but is somehow a sign of

superiority. Our current prayerbook replaces "who has not made me a slave" with the more positive "Blessed are you...who has made me a free person." As for the other two blessings, we rejoice in not being better, but in being who we are: "Blessed are you, who has made me a Jew," and "Blessed are you, who has made me a woman" or "...made me a man."

And so, where does this leave our blessing? On arising in the morning to another perfect day, or on smelling the ocean, or on marching in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day parade, surely there must be words to use to express what we feel. Surely there must be a way to thank God for bringing us to a city where we can live as who we are. Here we are relatively free to be openly gay or bisexual. We are surrounded by a beautiful city and even more beautiful country. We are enriched by a rainbow of other cultures and ethnicities. Here, the social justice of Judaism affirms our sexual orientation. Here, the gay and lesbian community supports our commitment to each other and to our Jewish sisters and brothers around the world. Here we are members of a special and loving family, something we can be proud of, but something which also carries a special responsibility to participate in Tikkun Olam, the healing of the world.

And so there is a blessing that encompasses all these things: Blessed are you, Shaddai, Guardian of all things, who has made me a San Franciscan.

—Laurie Radovsky

Parade Notes

Well, it's that lesbian/gay time of the year again. The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade & Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, and a Sha'ar Zahav contingent will be marching once again. Last year's contingent was quite large; this year's, we hope, will be larger.

Tiela Chalmers is coordinating our plans. We need people to volunteer as monitors. This entails attendance at one training workshop and, of course, attendance at the parade.

We also will have an information booth at the parade. We will be selling copies of our cookbook *Out of Our Kitchen Closets* (have you ordered yours, yet?).

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer as a monitor, set-up person, or for a dozen other tasks, please call Jacqueline at the office. Don't wait; call today.

Women's Havurah

Solstice Pool Party

The Summer Solstice, which falls on Sunday, June 21, will be celebrated with the last event of the Women's Havurah 1986-87 program year. A pool party and potluck at Marion and Betty's home in Danville is scheduled for 1-6 pm on that date.

Only 30 women can be accommodated, so get your reservations in early. Call Jacqueline at the synagogue office to reserve and you will be told what dish to bring. Bring your own beverages, towel, etc. as well.

Order Today! Don't Miss Out!

Out of Our Kitchen Closets
San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking

- The new synagogue cookbook
- Discount prices before June 1
- \$3.00 from each book will benefit the AIDS Food Bank of the S.F. AIDS Foundation

Order forms available at the CSZ office

Living Constitutions

Early last month, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall criticized the excessive adulation being offered the United States Constitution and its authors. Justice Marshall cautioned against turning the Constitution's bicentennial into a "blind pilgrimage to the shrine of the original document." Instead, he hopes to inspire "a sensitive understanding of [its] inherent defects and its promising evolution through two hundred years of history."

Justice Marshall believes that a mature appreciation of the Constitution requires us to set aside a simplistic image of the ultimate product—pure, perfect and unchanging. He suggested that a proper observance would commemorate "the suffering, struggle and sacrifice that has triumphed over much of what was wrong with the original document and observe the anniversary with hopes not realized and promises not fulfilled."

Justice Marshall's words provide a much-needed counter to the flag-waving fervor surrounding the adoption of a document which disenfranchised more than half of the population. But Rabbi Marshall's words are equally applicable to Judaism and its constitution, the Torah.

Many Jews—across the denominational spectrum—still hold to a narrow, fundamentalist understanding of Torah. All Jews believe that Torah—in its most narrow sense, the five Books of Moses—is an inspired, God-reflec-

ting, profound document. Like our nation's constitution or any human product, though, it is flawed. Alongside its teachings of the triumphs of the human spirit and capacity for justice are laws and traditions which are anachronistic or which we find to be patently wrong and indefensible.

On Shavu'ot, we celebrate the anniversary of the gift of Torah. Our celebration is meaningful because we do not honor the document alone but also celebrate the long and diverse history of our people in shaping and re forging the meaning of its teachings.

In its 1975 Centenary Perspective, the Central Conference of American Rabbis explained Torah:

"Torah results from the relationship between God and the Jewish people. The records of our earliest confrontations are uniquely important to us. Lawgivers and prophets, historians and poets gave us a heritage whose study is a religious imperative and whose practice is our chief means to holiness. Rabbis and teachers, philosophers and mystics, gifted Jews in every age amplified the Torah tradition."

Torah, in its many forms, will be studied and celebrated at our Shavu'ot service on Tuesday, June 2. Our congregation's teachers will be teaching during the Tikkun Shavu'ot (study session) during the evening. For further details, see the article elsewhere in this issue. Please join us.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Food Bank

Please, don't forget our brothers and sisters in need. Keep filling the shul's collection baskets with non-perishable food and other household items for the SF AIDS Foundation's residence program.

Sha'ar Zahav Funds

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to Ethiopian Jewry, Soviet Jewry, and San Francisco Jewish Family and Children's Services.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our congregation.

The AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and support of AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: supports *tzedakah* and special needs in the congregation and the community.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in the *Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

ATTORNEY

DAVID R. GELLMAN
Goldstein & Gellman
(415) 621-2966

•Contracts & Leases
•Estate Planning & Wills

•Real Estate
•Business Law & Litigation

Evening &
Weekend
Appointments

1540 Market St
Suite 490
San Francisco

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Steve Elman, in honor of Bill Ashley-Dobbin's birthday

Sally Ann Goldin

Allan, Matt, Justin Berenstein, in honor of the marriage of Ann & Al Radetsky

Ralph Coffman, in honor of the Ritual Committee

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in honor of Alita Rosenfeld's birthday

Walt Leiss, in honor of Eli Weinstein's recent recovery from surgery and the Bikkur Cholim Committee

David Shaber, in honor of Steve Elman & his continuing good works in the congregation & the community

Rabbi Howard A. Berman

Elaine & Alan Orvis, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's birthday; Catherine & Leila's new home; the wonderful and beautifully run Sha'ar Zahav Seder that has such a warm, loving feeling

Florence & Steve Nacamulli, in honor of the Bris of Aaron Nacamulli

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of Eric Keitel's birthday; birth of Ali Saslafsky; Mike Rankin's extraordinary work with the UAHC

Eli Weinstein

Susan Shiff

Cheryl Orvis & Beth, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's birthday

Library Fund

M. Lee Hunt, in honor of Hannah

Sam Thal, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's birthday

Carol C. & Sandra B., in honor of our daughter Hannah

Paul Blanc, in honor of Rabbi Kahn; in memory of Richard Blanc

AIDS Fund

Jay Ladin & Christine Benvenuto

New Members Welcomed

Sunday, April 26, the Membership Committee held its first quarterly new members' get-together at the home of president Irene Ogus and committee member Rosalinda del Moral. Almost half of January, February and March's new members attended the barbecue event, along with committee members, officers, Rabbi Kahn and a few Va'ad members and committee chairs.

In previous years, the membership committee has hosted only an annual tea in January to welcome all the new members who joined in the previous

year. The new smaller, less formal and more frequent get togethers begun on April 26 are not meant to replace that meeting, but to give new members an additional opportunity to meet people and become involved shortly after joining.

Any member (new or seasoned) interested in hosting a new members' social should contact Robin Leonard at 386-7876. April and May's new members, along with those who join us in June, will be invited to the next new members' social in mid or late July.



New members Steve Polsky, Rebecca Swisher and Jared Goldfine

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Leila Raim

Mike Rankin, in honor of Bill Ashley-Dobbin's birthday and Alita Rosenfeld's birthday

Frank Hyman

Lenore Jay, in memory of Bernice Michelson

Lorraine Lange, in memory of Allan Ellis

Torah Fund

Susan Greenspan, in celebration of her great aunt Sophia's 88th birthday

Social Action Fund

Ami Zusman

Sanctuary Bond Appeal: Marsha Blachman, Jerry Rosenstein, Guy Mannheimer, Mark Freeman, Rabbi Judy Shanks, Avery Freed & Ami Zusman

Me'ot Chittim Appeal

Jerry Rosenstein, Daniel Chesir, Jody Adelberg, Betty Kalis, Jonathan Funk, Mike Rankin, Ben Schalit, Robert Stern, Isabelle Fishman, Kiva and Talg Adler, Ronald Specter, Lawrence Wexler, Garry Koenigsberg, Leslie Bergson & Sadie Rosenbaum

Spotlight on...

Bill Goldstein

If you happened by CSZ's Book Fair in December, you probably admired the Chanukah gifts and the colorful Jewish books for both adults and children on display. And maybe you know how successful the book fair was. But did you know the whole story? For instance, who was it that helped put it all together?

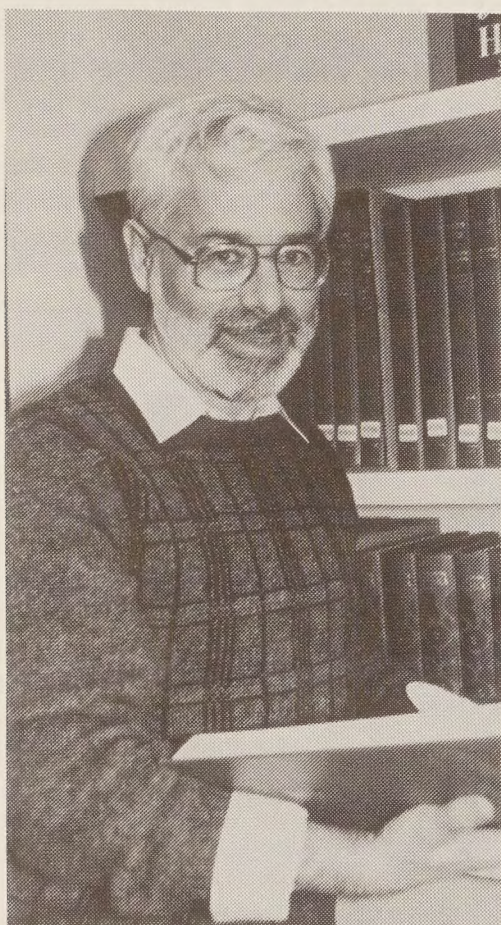


PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

The answer is Bill Goldstein. A principal organizer of the Book Fair, and chair of the Education Committee, Bill is a librarian by profession. He found his niche with the Education Committee shortly after becoming a member in 1984. Bill is somewhat shy; he says he is the kind of person who has difficulty "just going up to someone and saying 'hi' at an oneg.... I've found that many people are like me—they join CSZ for its social aspects. One of the best ways to get to know people is being on a committee."

Raised in the ghetto of East Flatbush, Bill reflected how his love for theater began—with money he acquired from his parents' winnings at Mah Jong. After visiting California twice in 1971, Bill pulled up his New

York roots in 1972 and transplanted himself to California. Presently, the theater and reading are his avocations. He regularly takes in the theater as both subscriber and usher. Leading an active life is Bill's style, and opera and travel are additional activities he enjoys when he finds the time.

A student in Leslie's class, "Living Jewishly," he says that what he's learning there makes up for what he's missed in the past. "I've got much more of a grounding in what Judaism is there than I've ever had before—in the tradition, culture and prayers. It's been very important for my coming to grips with myself."

Bill has helped keep the momentum going on the Education Committee and its work: the classes, workshops offered, guest speakers and the CSZ library—which started as an adjunct to the Book Fair. "The object of the library is to serve the Congregation—it will be open to all members. One of the aims of the library is to serve as a resource center for the classes, eventually including children's books for children's education."

About the classes, Bill stated, "A number of people asked for a Hebrew class and we got it. It's a little different—specifically how to read Hebrew (siddur Hebrew) instead of conversational Hebrew. There also is a Torah class taught by Rabbi Kahn. All the classes are well attended and interesting. And, since the classes are ongoing, continuity isn't extremely necessary—a student can skip sometimes and still keep up."

So now you know a little more of the story of the ongoing efforts of volunteers like Bill. "I feel a member of a community—which I have not always felt in the past—and it's given me an opportunity to understand myself, and provided me with an opportunity to give something back to other people."

—Amy Blasenheim

MEMBERSHIP

feels good

Education Committee

Library Opening

The end of May saw our congregation take another major step in our growth with the opening of our own library, filled with materials of special interest to us. Situated upstairs just outside the administrative offices, the library is open for use during the normal hours that our building is open. You are invited to come and browse, sit down and read any of the books, magazines and newsletters. Unfortunately, for the time being, these library materials cannot be taken home. The Library Subcommittee looks forward to the ending of this inconvenience in the near future.

Our library collection is small but growing. Suggestions for future purchases as well as gifts to the library are welcomed. For information on this, please contact the Library Subcommittee. If you haven't already visited the library, please do so the next time you are at Sha'ar Zahav. What we have is only a beginning.

* * *

International Update

Couldn't quite see your way to attend the International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews in Amsterdam this summer? You wanted to, but couldn't join in the subsequent trip to Israel? But you'd love to know what happened, what was it like? Then reserve Sunday, August 16 for an informal brunch along with a presentation by members sharing the excitement and their experiences, impressions and pictures.

* * *

Summer Classes

Warm, wonderful, sunny summer and don't we all have plans. For rest, relaxation, fun and a short class or two. Well, the Education Committee hopes that a class or two is in your plans. In August, which now seems so far away, the Education Committee will offer two four-week classes, Calligraphy taught by Susan Greenspan and Gay Themes in Hebrew Literature taught by Jody Hirsh. For now, just keep this in mind; more details will follow in the next newsletter.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	4 Sivan Education Comm. 7:30pm	5 Erev Shavu'ot Dinner, 6:30pm Service, 7:45pm Tikkun, 9pm	6 Shavuo't Newsletter Comm. 140 Ord, 7:30pm	7 Shavuo't Yizkor	8 Services, 8:15pm	9
10 7 Children's Havurah Planning, 3pm	11 8 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline for July/August issue	12 9 Prayerbook Hebrew Class, 7:30pm	13 10	14 11 Social Action Comm. 7:30pm Membership Comm. 7:30pm	15 12 Services, 8:15pm	16 13
17 14 Children's Havurah Tilden Park, noon	18 15	19 16 Prayerbook Hebrew Class, 7:30pm	20 17	21 18 Bikkur Cholim Comm. 7:30pm	22 19 Services, 8:15pm Installation of Officers & Va'ad	23 20
24 21 Women's Havurah Solstice Pool Party Danville, noon	25 22	26 23 Prayerbook Hebrew Class, 7:30pm	27 24	28 25 Ritual Comm., 6:30pm	29 26 Services, 8:15pm New Members Night	30 27 Morning Service, 10:30am
1 Tammuz 28 Rosh Chodesh Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade	2 29	3 30 Prayerbook Hebrew Class, 7:30pm				

Ritual Calendar

* * * * *

Tuesday, June 2

Shavuot Evening Service, 7:45
Dinner 6:30, Study Session 9:00
Ritual Committee & friends

Friday, June 5

Parsha: Naso
Daniel Chesir & Aaron Frankel

Friday, June 12

Parsha: Behaalotcha
Tiela Chalmers & Steve Greenberg
The Torah will be read

Friday, June 19

Parsha: Shelach Lecha
Installation of officers
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Shana Winokur

Friday, June 26

Parsha: Korach
Lesbian/Gay Pride Shabbat
Shabbat Rosh Chodesh
Leslie Bergson & Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Saturday, June 27

Morning Service, 10:30 am
Ritual Committee & friends

Friday, July 3

Parsha: Chukat
Leslie Bergson

Anniversaries

- 1 Marilyn Miller & Katherine Mann
- 3 Wendy Oberlander & Lisa Odabashian
- 12 Irene Ogus & Rosalinda del Moral
- 13 Yoel Kahn & Dan Bellm
- 27 Rhonda Bolden & Susan Unger

Birthdays

- 3 David Hyman
- 4 Ora Prochovnick
- 4 Steven Rosenberg
- 5 Richard Crane
- 7 Ailsa Steckel
- 9 Allyce Kimerling
- 10 Daniel Chesir
- 15 Lynn Taylor
- 16 Michael Freedland
- 23 Stephen Klein
- 24 Paul Schwartz
- 26 Marc Lipschutz
- 26 Jonathan Mesinger
- 28 Devorah Bat-Ha'Yah
- 28 Cynthia Schorr
- 29 Jay Feinstein
- 30 Benjamin Blachman-Forshay

* * * * *

Yahrzeits

- | | |
|---|--|
| Annie Goldberg, grandmother of Carol C. | 22 David B. Goodstein, friend of Bernard Pechter |
| 1 Abraham Vogel, father of Lee Vogel | 22 Dorothy Abraham Weiss, stepmother of Wendy Weiss |
| 2 Mark Feldman, member of the congregation | 23 Evelyn Baldwin, mother of Lawney Baldwin |
| 2 Margaret Staub, grandmother of Wendy Weiss | 23 Sarah Cinnamon, grandmother of Jeff Presement |
| 4 Claude Wybrecht, lover of Ralph Vissell | 23 Sidney Hannaford, father of Stephanie Hannaford |
| 6 (9 Sivan) Bertha Kornfield Miller, mother of G. Murray Miller | 23 Sidney Steckel, father of Ailsa Steckel |
| 8 Leo Harris, grandfather of Allen Harris | 23 Perel Berenstein, grandmother of Allan Berenstein |
| 9 Duff Kreitzberg, member of the congregation | 24 Pearl Lindsey, aunt of Bill Schlichter |
| 9 Herman H. Siegel, father of Barry Siegel | 25 Pauline Lillian Weill, grandmother of Jill Rose |
| 13 Arthur Felson, friend of Michael Bettinger | 26 (29 Sivan) Morris Toporek, grandfather of Elliott Toporek |
| 15 (18 Sivan) Fivel Rudman, grandfather of Richard Crane | 26 Allan Levy, friend of Pamela Mara Singer |
| 16 Leslie Kravitz, father of Bob Kravitz | 26 (29 Sivan) John Blazewick, father of Hannah Blazewick |
| 17 Simma Guilford, mother of Andrea Piazza | 26 Leo Miller, father of Marilyn Miller |
| 17 Joe Zygielbaum, member of the congregation | 30 Thomas Tannenhaus, cousin of Bruce Katz |
| 18 Anna Handman, grandmother of Jonathan Schwartz | |
| 18 Isabel June Fleming, sister of Gordon Osser | |
| 19 Sandy Wolin, friend of Robin Leonard | |
| 20 Irving Wildberg, grandfather of Judy Macks | |
| 20 Henriette Wildberg, grandmother of Judy Macks | |
| 21 Leo Leva, friend of Keith Barton | |

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday *preceding* the Yahrzeit date.

* * *

Unveiling: Michael Erceg invites all friends to gather for the unveiling of the gravemarker for David H. Kotch on Sunday, June 21, 11 am at Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery, 32992 Mission Blvd., Hayward.

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss:

To **Sage Foster** on the recent loss of her uncle, Fred Bender.

To **Keith Barton & Steve Rosenberg** on the recent loss of lover and friend, John Schlott.

To the community on the recent loss of Bobby Reynolds.

Sibling Notes

Two of our sibling congregations have been active recently in community affairs:

Cleveland: Several members of Chevrei Tikva were involved in organizing the Sixth All-Ohio Gay/Lesbian Conference at Case Western Reserve University. The conference was attended by over 300 people, and included an interfaith service, workshops and guest speakers.

Washington, DC: Bet Mishpachah's Community Outreach Committee has been involved in ensuring that the United States Holocaust Memorial Council properly memorializes Gay and Lesbian victims of the Holocaust. The Council is seeking archival and other materials for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, scheduled to open in 1988.

PAUL FREUD WOTMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

LAW OFFICES OF
PAUL WOTMAN
25 VAN NESS AVENUE, PENTHOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

(415) 864-1900

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Va'ad Report

The May meeting of the Va'ad began with the Va'ad's presenting a bouquet of red roses to CSZ President Irene Ogus, on the occasion of the last meeting she will chair during her term. The Va'ad then approved by acclamation Vice President Richard Inlander's motion that "The Va'ad of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, in recognition of a year of extraordinary accomplishment on the part of President Irene Ogus, including the dedication of our first memorial boards, the purchase of our first computer, the hiring of our full-time rabbi, the presentation of a women's workshop weekend, the imminent publication of our cookbook, and the planning of our 10th anniversary celebration, offers its congratulations, and, on behalf of the entire congregation, its gratitude for a challenging job well done." Irene was delighted with the tribute, and expressed her feelings about being the President. She remarked that her term of office has been a great time for her.

In his *D'var Torah*, Rabbi Kahn discussed the power of speech in the Jewish tradition. Like God, human beings have the power to create by speech. This power must not be used harmfully, in repeating gossip or even damaging true remarks about others. The rabbi encouraged the leaders of the synagogue to take the lead in carefully using the power of speech.

The Va'ad reviewed the success of the congregation's Passover seder at Lehr's Greenhouse Restaurant. The consensus was that the seder was both creative and *heimish* despite the very large turnout, and the Va'ad passed a motion to reserve Lehr's for the 1988 seder.

Treasurer Jerry Rosenstein noted that almost \$10,000 in dues remains outstanding, and discussed the need for members whose dues are not paid up-to-date to honor their pledges.

Rabbi Kahn reported that a pamphlet of materials about AIDS is being sent by the UAHC to all rabbis of Reform congregations in North America. Based on his recommendation regarding the distribution of proceeds from the Me'ot Chitim appeal, the Va'ad approved Allyce Kimerling's motion to distribute 50 percent to the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank, 25 percent to the Commit-

tee for Refugees from Central America (CRECE), and 25 percent to MAZON.

Office Manager Jacqueline Letalien reported that she has started working with the new synagogue office computer, which she said is wonderful to use. Jacqueline also reported that new chairs and tables have arrived. She reminded that CSZ volunteers are needed to serve as parade monitors for the 1987 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade & Celebration.

Membership Committee chair Robin Leonard presented five membership applications, which were approved by the Va'ad. She reported that name tags have been sent to members.

Finance Committee chair Don Albert reported on the revised wording of proposed bylaw amendments and new bylaws for establishing an Endowment Fund for Sha'ar Zahav, which the Va'ad approved.

Irene reported that the Sha'ar Zahav Cookbook will soon go to press, in time, it is hoped, to be sold at CSZ's booth at the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day celebration.

Eric Keitel encouraged members to sponsor and attend Sha'ar Zahav's

Tenth Anniversary celebration on Saturday, August 8.

Though this Va'ad meeting accomplished a lot, it missed the extra energy that CSZ members who often attend bring. We hope to see you there next time!

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

Caring

The Congregation is developing a guide for supporting the ill and mourners among us. Areas of major focus are emotional support, putting financial affairs in order, insurance liaison with the medical community (including hospital care, home health care and hospice), legal issues (such as wills, powers of attorney, etc.).

A comprehensive outline of the guide has recently been developed and writing is about to begin. If you have any personal experiences that would be helpful, and/or if you have an interest in acting as a resource person or writer, please contact Sen Talley (558-8248).



Don't make a move...

without talking to me first

For all aspects of real estate
with integrity and professionalism

- Selling or Buying
- Residential
- Income/Investment
- Free Property Evaluation
- Free Consultation

Call now:

Shirley Liberman

Realtor Associate
Great City Realtors
3001 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 621-0737 or 550-1744

Discount and/or referral fee to CSZ members.



So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Why does everyone say *Kaddish* at our services? In my parents' synagogue, only mourners said it. Can't we do it that way? The words are so hard to pronounce.

Old-fashioned on Ord

Dear Old-fashioned,

So although you have two questions for your Aunt Yente, this month she'll answer two for the price of one. (Just leave the bagels in the usual place.) Why in our shul does everyone say *Kaddish*, and why is *Kaddish* so hard to pronounce. But first she has for you a question—what *Kaddish* do you mean?

You see, *kinderlach*, the *Kaddish* prayer dates back to Talmudic times, when it was said by the rabbis after studying. As it became part of our general prayerbook, so we began to use it for more things. There is still a version called *Kaddish d'Rabbonon*, (Rabbi's *Kaddish*) for after studying Torah (whether you're a rabbi or not). More common is *Chatzi Kaddish* (Half *Kaddish*, or Reader's *Kaddish*) which divides the parts of a service—like on Friday night, after welcoming Shabbos but before Borchu and the evening prayers. There is also a *Kaddish Sholeim* or *Kaddish Tiskabel* (Complete *Kaddish* or *Kaddish* of Acceptance) which comes at the end of prayer; our shul says this at the very end of Yom Kippur. And there is another form of *Kaddish* for a burial.

Before you decide that all this is so confusing that you'll never pray again, let Aunt Yente tell you that all these versions are very similar. The first paragraph of the *Kaddish* praises God's name, and asks that the time of redemption may come soon, in our own days. The second paragraph, after offering twelve different praises, admits that God is far beyond any praise that can be said in the world God made. The *Chatzi* (half) *Kaddish* stops here; other versions add two or three additional lines.

But the version you have asked about—and which Aunt Yente thinks is the most beautiful of all—she has not yet mentioned. This is *Kaddish Yusom*, the Mourner's *Kaddish*—the *Kaddish* we all say together, the one that most people think of as "*Kaddish*." *Kaddish Yusom* has the same first two paragraphs as the others, and then

adds two more lines: "*Y'hei sh'lomo raboh min shomayoh*—May there be great peace from heaven, and life upon us," and *Oseh sholom bim'romov*—May the One who makes peace on high make peace for us." If these two lines seem similar, it is because the second is a translation of the first. What does Aunt Yente mean a translation? Aren't they both in Hebrew? No, *kinderlach*, and here is the answer to your second question.

So if you were listening to your Aunt Yente, you'll remember that *Kaddish* comes from the time of the Talmud. For most of that time, Jews (just to be confusing) were not speaking Hebrew, which was already an ancient language, but a dialect of Hebrew called Aramaic. So the *Kaddish* is in a different language than almost all the rest of the prayerbook. For example, instead of "*Shalom*" it uses the word "*Sh'lomoh*." So the Aramaic line "*Y'hei sh'lomoh raboh min shomayoh*," about peace coming from heaven, twists your tongue a little more than the translation—which is the only part of the *Kaddish* in Hebrew—"oseh sholom bimromov."

So what about your first question, about why we say the Mourner's *Kaddish* together? Well, *kinderlach*, Orthodox Jews see the *Kaddish Yusom* as a prayer for deceased members of the immediate family. It is said once a year on the *yohrtzite*, the anniversary of death, and every day for the eleven months immediately after burial. Eleven, but not twelve, because except for the very wicked, punishment after death only lasts for eleven months. (Aunt Yente will refrain from comments, except to tell you that if someone was very wicked, there can be special dispensation to say *Kaddish* for twelve months. Aunt Yente will thank you not to offer suggestions as to how many months will be necessary in her case. She already said she is sorry about what happened in the hot tub.) Because *Kaddish* is only an obligation for immediate family at specific times, an Orthodox would not say it every week; it would be a vain prayer, like saying *hamotzie* without eating bread.

Reform synagogues like ours see a little different reason for the *Kaddish*. Rather than worry about when and for

whom we can say, we see the *Kaddish* as a remembering of our larger family. Even Orthodox tradition permits saying *Kaddish* for those with no surviving relatives; especially after the Holocaust, every day Jewish *yohrtzites* would go unremembered unless we and others said *Kaddish* for them. Also, for centuries there have been lesbians and gay men who were written out of the traditional mishpochoh, whose lives and deaths were deliberately forgotten; for these too it is appropriate that we say *Kaddish*. But the real stuffing in the knish, as far as your Aunt Yente is concerned, is that our vision of family is different. We look not just at nuclear families (whether or not they glow in the dark) but at the mishpochoh of the whole house of Israel, and, *takke*, at the blood relationship we share with all the other children of Eve and Adam.

So Aunt Yente hopes that you will still rise with her to say the *Kaddish*, in memory of all people whose life and death have enriched our world. She promises not to notice if you get a few words wrong, if you promise not to make any comments about dress sizes.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material Copyright © 1987 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Naches

Mazel tov to Michael Zimmerman for the performance of his play at Theatre Rhinoceros;

To Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien, for publication of poems in *Yoni: A Magazine of Lesbian Erotica*, and three poetry performances in June; and

To Nanci Stern, for her reading at Walt Whitman Bookstore.

* * *

We'd all like to share in the *naches* of members of our Sha'ar Zahav family. If you or someone you know has something special to share with *Forward* readers, please contact the synagogue office.

Oneg Sponsors

During April, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 3 Howard Blechman, in memory of Ron Gertz
- 10 Mirtha Beal, in honor of her commission and her lover's birthday
- 18 Cheri Pies, in memory of her lover Lynn Campbell

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Office Notes

High Holidays: Going away for the High Holidays? Want to attend services in the place you are visiting? Because we are a UAHC congregation, our members are offered courtesy seating at other UAHC congregations during the High Holidays. Forms and letters of introduction are available by request.

Famous Artists: Several members of our congregation are poets, performers, artists and playwrights. Since support of our artists is important, there is now a sheet titled "Famous Artists" posted on the oneg room bulletin board. If you know anyone (including yourself) who has a play that's running, a poetry reading or an art exhibit, please call me.

[P.S. I will be doing a poetry performance at the synagogue on Monday, June 29 at 7:30 pm. I will read selections from various collections I've written including *She and I* (love poems—aah, sigh), *Babelogues*, and more. Also there will be special guests Vicki Dello Joio (mime), Janet Keller (storytelling) and Kyos Featherdancing (chanting).]

Thank You: Special thank yous to Gordon Osser, for expert and beautiful work in shaping up the library for its grand opening; and to Peter Abinanti, for carpentry that has helped to beautify and improve the building.

—Jacqueline Letalien, Office Manager

Sanctuary (Continued from page 1)

tee. Particular thanks are owed to Rabbi Kahn and Shana Winokur, who coordinated the special liturgy (and Shana also for leading us in singing throughout the service), Janine Baer, who has written articles and prepared flyers on CSZ's Sanctuary work, Russel Discher, who has coordinated our activities with other Sanctuary organizations, and Allyce Kimerling, who provided Spanish translations throughout the service to assist our Spanish-speaking guests. In addition to Allyce, Mirtha Beal, Rosalinda del Moral, Jose-Luis Moscovich and Jonathan Schwartz led readings in Spanish and provided Spanish translations during the service.

* * *

Update on Sanctuary Activities: Support for refugees from violence and persecution in El Salvador and Guatemala continues to be urgently needed.

Sanctuary Bond Fund: CSZ has a special Sanctuary Bond Fund to pay the bail for Central American refugees incarcerated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Once free on bail, refugees can pursue political asylum in the United States. Contributions can be made to Sha'ar Zahav, clearly marked as donations to the Sanctuary Bond Fund.

Moakley-DeConcini Bill: A bill now in Congress would temporarily suspend deportation of refugees from El Salvador while the General Accounting Office completes a report

on the conditions of displaced Salvadorans. To assist, write letters urging passage of the bill to Senator Joseph Biden, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Congress Member Romano Mazzoli, Chair of the House Committee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law; and your U.S. Representatives and Senators. More information and a sample letter is posted in the Oneg Room.

Simpson-Rodino Immigration Law: The new immigration law is expected to have serious effects on Central American refugees. Most of these refugees came after January 1, 1982 and so would not be entitled to amnesty under the law. Refugees' ability to find work to survive in the United States is also threatened by the penalties on employers who hire undocumented aliens. The committee will be following the effects of the new law on refugees.

—Ami Zusman, Chair
Social Action Committee

Wheelchair Access (Sort Of)

Members of the Membership Committee are available to help people in wheelchairs up the back stairs for Shabbat services and assist with transfers. We need three days' notice to set up such assistance. Please note that our bathroom is not wheelchair accessible.



NATIONAL COLLECTION AGENCY INC

1161 POST STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94109-5504

415 561-0600

Medical • Professional • Insurance • Commercial

WALT LEISS, PRESIDENT
ROBERT LaVERNE, V.P.
JIM COURTRIGHT, V.P.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Irene Ogus
Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Eric Keitel
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Shirley Liberman
Mike Rankin
Susan Talley
Don Albert, ex officio

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm, with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin & Lawney Baldwin
Past Presidents Council, Cheryl Orvis
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Manager:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2:30 pm. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Let's meet in Amsterdam
at the

10th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews

July 2-5

Co-sponsored by Sjalhomo and the
World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations

For information & registration packets, write to:

World Congress
P.O. Box 881272
San Francisco, CA 94188

Travel package, including Israel tour, also available

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members in May. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family, including:

Ida Kuluk & Evan
Robert Nacamulli,
Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli,
Jacob, Rebbecca, Noah, Aaron
Cheri Pies
Margaret Rossoff & Max
Peter Vishniac

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.